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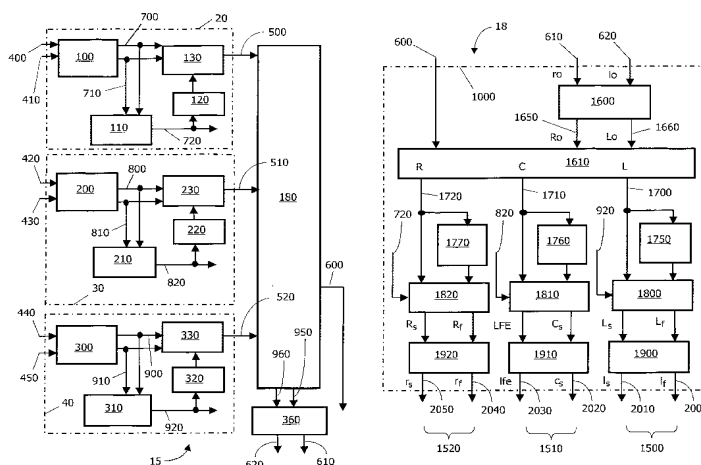
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(54) Title: MULTI-CHANNEL ENCODER



(57) Abstract: There is described a method of encoding input signals (CHI to CH3; 400 to 450) in a multi-channel encoder (5; 15) to generate corresponding output data comprising down-mix output signals (610, 620) together with complementary parametric data (600). The method includes a first step of down-mixing input signals (CHI to CH3; 400 to 450) to generate the corresponding down-mix output signals (610, 620), and a second step of processing the input signals (CHI to CH3; 400 to 450) during down-mixing to generate said parametric data (600) complementary to the down-mix output signals (610, 620). Processing of the input signals (CHI to CH3; 400 to 450) involves including information in the down-mix signals (610, 620) which is useable during subsequent decoding of the down-mix output signals (610, 620) and the parametric data (600) to determine at least some parameter data and thereby enabling representations of the input signals (CHI to CH3; 400 to 450) to be subsequently regenerated. Coders for use in the encoder (5; 15) for performing essential signal processing operations therein are also elucidated.

WO 2005/098824 A1



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